

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling access to a service over a network, including
5 the steps of :
automatically identifying a service user; and
acquiring user information, thereby to control said access.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said network is an anonymous network.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said network is any one of the group comprising: a data network, a cellular data network, and the Internet.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said user information is "real-world" information.
- 15 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said controlling is allowing or denying access.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said service is any one of the group comprising: e-mail service, electronic banking, financial service, and firewall.
- 20 7. A method according to claim 1 further including the step of sending said user information to a service provider.
8. A method according to claim 1 further including the step of associating said user information with control information.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein said step of associating is performed by a service provider.
10. A method according to claim 1 further including the step of requesting information from said user.
11. A method of providing service over a network, wherein said service requires identification of a user, including the steps of :
- automatically identifying said user; and
 - associating said user with user information, thus enabling said service.
12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said network is an anonymous network.
13. A method according to claim 11 wherein said network is any one of the group comprising: a data network, a cellular data network, and the Internet.
14. A method according to claim 11 wherein said user information is "real-world" information.
15. A method according to claim 11 wherein said user is a service user.
16. A method according to claim 11 wherein said service is any one of the group comprising: caller identification, call management, financial transactions, and restricted services.
17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said method of providing financial transactions service further including the step of automatically providing user billing details.

18. A method according to claim 16 wherein said method of providing financial transactions service further including the step of sending said user information to a merchant.

5 19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said user information is a temporary user identification.

20. A method according to claim 16 wherein said method of providing financial transactions service further including the step of associating said user information with billing information.